

Remarks

Reconsideration and further examination is respectfully requested. Claims 1-8 and 11-14 remain in the application and no claims have been added.

Applicant has invented a bridge for a guitar or other stringed instrument which provides individual height and length adjustment of each string. While this result has been achieved before, the inventive bridge achieves the result through an adjuster having a saddle and anvil which mate pivotally, preferably at a fulcrum and pivot groove. This pivotal connection is novel as is the use of a height adjustment screw which draws together the rear of the saddle and the anvil.

Claims 1-8 have been allowed; claims 9 & 10 have been rejected; and claims 11-14 were objected to as being dependent from a rejected claim but indicated as allowable if rewritten to remove the dependency.

35 USC §102(b) Rejection of Claims 9 & 10

The Examiner has rejected claims 9 & 10 under 35 USC 102(b) over US patent 6,133,5515 to Hoshino. While Applicant still believes that Hoshino fails to disclose a pivotal support, he has decided to cancel these claims rather than pursue further prosecution.

Objection to claims 11-14

The Examiner has objected to claims 11-14 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but stated that the claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Each of claims 11-14 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations the claims from which they originally depended.

Summary

In summary, Applicant believes that all of the Examiner's objections have been addressed and that claims 1-8 as originally written continue to be allowable and that claims 11-14 as amended herein are now allowable. None of the claims has breadth greater than the original claims and no new material has been introduced.

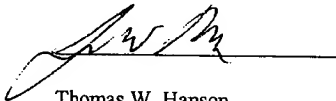
Applicant has made diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Mr. Thomas W. Hanson, Applicant's attorney at 303-789-1002 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

For these reasons and in view of the above amendments, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date



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Amendment – Marked-up version

In the Claims:

In the following, deletions are shown by strike-through (~~deletion~~) and additions by underlining (addition).

Claim 11 was amended as follows:

11. (Once amended)~~The adjustable bridge of claim 10~~ An adjustable bridge for an instrument having plural strings, said bridge comprising:

- a) a base plate connectable to the body of the instrument, said base plate comprising a bottom plate adapted to contact the body of the instrument;
- b) plural adjusters, one for each string, each supported by said bottom plate, and each comprising:
 - i) an anvil,
 - ii) a saddle, pivotally supported by said anvil and defining a string groove adapted to receive the string; and
 - iii) means for adjusting the relative angle of said anvil and said saddle about said pivot whereby the distance between said string groove and said anvil can be varied;
- c) plural length adjusting screws, one connecting each of said adjusters to a section of said base plate, whereby rotation of said screws relative to said adjusters moves said adjusters toward or away from said base plate section to separately adjust the length of each string;

wherein said bottom plate has a somewhat concave lower surface to adapt said bridge to stringed instruments having convex bodies.

Claim 12 was amended as follows:

12. (Once amended)~~The adjustable bridge of claim 10~~ An adjustable bridge for an instrument having plural strings, said bridge comprising:

- a) a base plate connectable to the body of the instrument, said base plate comprising a bottom plate adapted to contact the body of the instrument;

- b) plural adjusters, one for each string, each supported by said bottom plate, and each comprising:
- i) an anvil,
 - ii) a saddle, pivotally supported by said anvil and defining a string groove adapted to receive the string; and
 - iii) means for adjusting the relative angle of said anvil and said saddle about said pivot whereby the distance between said string groove and said anvil can be varied;
- c) plural length adjusting screws, one connecting each of said adjusters to a section of said base plate, whereby rotation of said screws relative to said adjusters moves said adjusters toward or away from said base plate section to separately adjust the length of each string;

wherein said bottom plate has a somewhat convex upper surface to position said adjusters in an arcuate pattern.

Claim 13 was amended as follows:

13. (Once amended) The adjustable bridge of claim 9. An adjustable bridge for an instrument having plural strings, said bridge comprising:

- a) a base plate connectable to the body of the instrument;
- b) plural adjusters, one for each string, each comprising:
 - i) an anvil,
 - ii) a saddle, pivotally supported by said anvil and defining a string groove adapted to receive the string; and
 - iii) means for adjusting the relative angle of said anvil and said saddle about said pivot whereby the distance between said string groove and said anvil can be varied;
- c) plural length adjusting screws, one connecting each of said adjusters to a section of said base plate, whereby rotation of said screws relative to said adjusters moves said adjusters toward or away from said base plate section to separately adjust the length of each string;

wherein said base plate defines an open region in which said adjusters are positioned in direct contact with the instrument body.

Claim 14 was amended as follows:

14. (Once amended) ~~The adjustable bridge of claim 9~~ An adjustable bridge for an instrument having plural strings, said bridge comprising:

- a) a base plate connectable to the body of the instrument;
- b) plural adjusters, one for each string, each comprising:
 - i) an anvil,
 - ii) a saddle, pivotally supported by said anvil and defining a string groove adapted to receive the string; and
 - iii) means for adjusting the relative angle of said anvil and said saddle about said pivot whereby the distance between said string groove and said anvil can be varied;
- c) plural length adjusting screws, one connecting each of said adjusters to a section of said base plate, whereby rotation of said screws relative to said adjusters moves said adjusters toward or away from said base plate section to separately adjust the length of each string;

wherein each of said adjusters has a width and said base plate comprises two spaced apart parallel side rails defining therebetween a space having a width substantially equal to the combined width of said plural adjusters whereby said adjusters are closely received within said space with lateral movement of said adjusters substantially eliminated.